

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

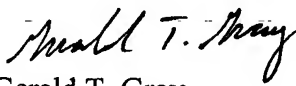
Please cancel claims 1-25 and 42-46. Accordingly, claims 26-41 will remain pending. Claims 26-41 correspond to claims in Group II that were canceled in response to a restriction requirement in parent patent application serial no. 09/605,070.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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